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RUGBY GIANT IN TOWN

A sporting giant came to Ramsgate on Friday last week when Martin Johnson CBE visited St Lawrence College to open the school's new sports hall.

The huge World Cup-winning England rugby captain and current England coach towered over staff and students during his visit and was impressed by the facilities he saw.

Among the delighted students were the school's rugby players, who met one of their true sporting heroes.

• FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

■ BY TOM BETTS

A CHARITY that works to keep abused children safe has slammed the sentence handed down to a couple found guilty of abusing two young boys.

Ricky Winter and Kristina Davies were both jailed for two years after they were each convicted by a jury on two counts of child-cruelty at Canterbury Crown Court.

The charity says the sentence was far too light for the abuse the boys went through.

Winter, 23, and Davies, 20, inflicted injuries on the boys, aged two and four, because they were unable to control them at their Cliftonville home, a judge was told.

Their ordeal was only discovered when neighbours called police and social services.

After just 10 days in their care, the two-year-old was found to have a broken collarbone and bitemarks on his buttocks and genitals, while the four-year-old had extensive bruising on his head and bites on his bottom as well as extensive bruising across his back.

Claude Knights, a director of Kidscape, said: "We have to ask whether a two-year jail sentence reflects the severity of the crimes against these children.

"The attacks suffered by these children were brutal, systematic and premeditated.

"Either one of these assailants could have halted the behaviour but chose not to do so. One of the concerns we would have is that we need to ensure these people are not returned to society before it is safe to do so. We need to think of the safety of other children. The community has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Co-op 'double trouble for our village traders'

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE close proximity of two branches of the Co-op in Birchington is causing concern in the village.

When the Somerfield supermarket chain was taken over by the Co-operative group in 2009, the chain set about turning the stores into Co-op outlets.

This meant that the Somerfield store at 78-80 Station Road became a Co-op, even though the group has a store just 120 paces away in the same street.

Village campaigner Bernard LaRoche says he plans to take the issue up with the Competition Commission because it is harming the trade of other village shops.

He said: "The Co-op's prices are more expensive than Somerfield's and it's pushed many shoppers to say enough, and now even more go out of town for their groceries."

"That has a knock-on effect for the other shops because they miss out on trade if there are not as many people in the village."

It may prove to be a fruitless quest, though.

In January 2009, the Office of Fair Trading accepted the measures the Co-op said it would adopt.

They included divesting 133 of its stores in the UK, which appeased the Competition Commission.

However, it seems likely that both Birchington stores will remain.

A Co-operative spokesman said: "The Somerfield supermarket chain was acquired by The Co-operative Group in March 2009 as part of a £1.56 billion deal."

"Following the move, the group invested £350,000, in May this year, to convert the former Somerfield at 78-80 Station Road into a Co-



LEADING CAMPAIGN: Bernard LaRoche

operative food store, securing all 35 jobs. As part of the rebranding process, products and prices were brought in line with the rest of The Co-operative Group.

"Later this year, refurbishment work will begin on our smaller store at 54-56 Station Road, converting it into a convenience-style shop where customers will be able to quickly pick up day-to-day items such as bread, milk and newspapers."

"We genuinely believe that there is a demand from local people to be able to shop locally, and the opinions of Birchington residents are very important to us."

"This week we are hosting a customer panel, where 12 of our shoppers will meet the store management team to discuss what they like about The Co-operative offering."

The Co-op also has a store in Westgate, which was also a branch of Somerfield until recently.

The spokesman said: "In regards to our neighbouring store in Westgate-on-Sea, the store serves a different community who would not necessarily want to travel into Birchington for their shopping."



PLAYING IT COOL: Isle MP Laura Sandys

Sandys ignores newspaper slur

THANET South MP Laura Sandys has dismissed a written assault on her by a big-name columnist.

Writing in his column in The Sun newspaper last week, Kelvin Mackenzie, the tabloid's controversial former editor, said: "What a complete waste of space she is. One more brain cell and she would be a keep-left sign."

"If she is the quality of the 2010 Tory intake, God help Cameron and God help democracy."

The pair had appeared together on a TV show as panellists.

Spending Review: The South East Today Debate went out late at night on BBC One and guests and a studio audience discussed the state of the region's economy.

It was filmed at Mid Kent College in Medway.

Ms Sandys responded to Mr Mackenzie's broadside by saying: "Well, it is in the eye of the beholder – but I didn't really have any chance to speak during the debate as they marginalised the politicians."

"Paul Clark, who was on this too, was also cross about the lack of airtime that we had – and the format was really strange."

"So if he thought this, he didn't really have any chance to know much about me. But I have to say that it is only really the people of South Thanet that I mind about."



COURT PLEA: Councillor Ewen Cameron

Councillor denies drink-drive charges

A THANET councillor charged with two counts of drink-driving has denied both charges.

The pleas were entered on behalf of Ewen Cameron, 52, by his solicitor Paul Goldspring at Margate court on Friday last week.

Cllr Cameron has been granted unconditional bail and the case will come to court again on Thursday next week.

Island chefs invited to Come Dine on TV show

THE producers of hit TV show Come Dine With Me are looking for people from the isle to take part.

They will be shooting in the area soon and need would-be dinner-party hosts who would like to be on TV. The show is taking on a new form, with a new daytime show being launched.

A spokesman said: "Do you love cooking and having people over to your house for dinner? We're looking for anyone over 18 years old, from any walk of life, who feels they have what it takes to throw a great dinner party."

The successful series follows five strangers who take it in turns to try to prepare the best meal, be the

best host and hold the best all-round dinner party.

The one voted best host by the other contestants wins £1,000.

The spokesman said: "If you are passionate about cooking and you'd like to find out more, or if you know someone who could be a perfect candidate for our show, then please get in touch with us and leave your contact details on 0871 244 4142."

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Calls from other networks may be higher and from mobiles will cost considerably more. You can also email darren.lovell@itv.com to express an interest.

Star inspires pupils to be the best they can

■ BY TOM BETTS

RUGBY legend Martin Johnson CBE was the centre of attention at St Lawrence College on Friday.

The World Cup-winning captain, who led England to glory against Australia in 2003, came to Ramsgate to cut the ribbon and open the school's new sports hall.

The rugby giant is a friend of housemaster Gary Davis, who taught Martin at his secondary school in Market Harborough and worked with the star's mother.

The new sports hall has taken a year to construct, with work on the foundations started in July 2009.

The complex is now equipped and ready for use for the start of the new academic year.

Facilities include a dance studio, squash courts, a fitness suite, climbing wall and an extensive indoor games arena.

The project has taken more than 10 years to put in place and finance, and has cost about £1.6 million.

The rugby-player unveiled a commemorative plaque and toured the facility, meeting students and staff on the way round.

The college chaplain, Rev Peter Russell, blessed the building as the tour began. The opening was informal, friendly and there was plenty of opportunity for the students to meet Mr Johnson.

After the official opening, Mr Johnson addressed the school in an informal assembly.

He was introduced by the headmaster, Rev Mark Aitken, who said of him: "Martin Johnson



INSPIRATIONAL: Rugby legend Martin Johnson signs autographs for delighted pupils and staff at St Lawrence College

is a true giant of a man, not just in terms of size but in his leadership. He is an inspiration to others, particularly when faced with overwhelming odds. This is, in my view, the true test of a giant – and we are so proud to welcome him to our school."

The England coach delivered an inspirational message to pupils.

He said: "Whatever level you play at, a love of the game is important. There is a sport out

there for everyone to enjoy. To be the best you can is a great thing. I had passion, without which you'll never achieve anything."

He went on to talk about the value of sport in his life from an early age: "I can remember winning school games that were as important to me as national matches."

He observed that most of the international players he had come across in his career succeeded mainly through hard work.



ABUSERS: Ricky Winter and Kristina Davies

Boys subjected to 'brutal force'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

a right to gain assurances that children will not be at risk in the future from brutal behaviour not comprehensible to most people."

Judge Simon James said the older boy suffered 14 separate injuries.

He said: "These injuries can only be described as horrific. They were applied with brutal force. They were truly sickening."

The judge said Winter and Davies put their loyalty to each other above ensuring the boys got medical treatment.

He said the boys had been ordered to cry on demand and kiss Winter's feet.

"This was far beyond reasonable chastisement. Any right-thinking person would only feel revulsion at your treatment of these children."

"This was a systematic and calculated period of cruelty for which neither of you feel any remorse."

"Mercifully, the injuries will have no long-term effect and hopefully the mental scars you inflicted will heal as well."

Davies was sent to a Young Offenders Institution because of her age.

John Cameron from the NSPCC said: "Sadly, the cruelty these boys have suffered is not unique."

"Neglect makes up nearly half of all child-protection cases, and this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Tenants have say on plans

MORE than half of tenants and leaseholders across east Kent have given their views ahead of a proposed shake-up of council-housing services.

About 10,000 people took part in a consultation after Thanet, Canterbury, Dover and Shepway councils put forward plans to set up an arm's length management organisation (ALMO) to manage their housing stock.

The district authorities believe it could save them about £1.5million over the next few years. The savings, they say, would be reinvested in the service.

The consultation was sent out to 18,000 people across the four areas, with 52 per cent taking part.

Asked if they thought it was a good idea for the proposal to proceed, 64 per cent of people said yes, 24 per cent said they were not sure and 12 per cent said no.

The second question asked if they supported the proposal for Thanet council to join with the other three councils to form the ALMO.

A total of 69 per cent said yes, while 18 per cent said they weren't sure and 13 per cent said no.

A report on the results of the consultation will now go to each of the four councils, which will then need to submit an application to transfer their housing management to the new set-up.

Arts and history 'the key to regeneration'

TWO national agencies have launched a partnership to help move forward the flagging regeneration of Margate.

English Heritage and Arts Council England have teamed up to form the three-year partnership programme known as MACH, which stands for Margate Arts, Creativity, Heritage.

It will be focused on the wards of Margate Central and Cliftonville West.

The £500,000 funding commitment could lever new investment to the town and will be used to support the growth of the creative sector.

Thanet council is also a partner in the programme, which is hosted by Margate Renewal Partnership.

Stephanie Fuller, senior manager of funding programmes at Arts Council England, said: "The arts are one of the fastest-growing parts of our economy and that's why we believe successful regeneration has the arts at its core."

"Some of the UK's most celebrated artists have shaped Margate's colourful history and, with the Turner Contemporary gallery opening next year, this project reflects our belief that arts and heritage have an important role to play in breathing new life into its future."

Margate has come under the spotlight in recent years as one of the UK resorts hit hardest by the decline of the tourism trade.

A Local Data Company study found that Margate had the highest proportion of empty shops in the country.

The wards of Margate Central and Cliftonville West, meanwhile, have some of the highest indices of deprivation in the South East.

Ms Fuller said: "Culture has already been identified as having the potential to kickstart Margate's regeneration, with associated investment in Turner Contemporary, a world-class contemporary art gallery due to open in 2011 and Dreamland, the UK's first heritage amusement park, due to open in 2012."

"The investment through MACH aims to complement these flagship schemes, supporting the growth of the creative sector in Margate by using the inspiration and opportunity afforded by its heritage."

Dr Andy Brown, English Heritage regional director for the South East, said: "MACH is about supporting the people of Margate as much as it is about Margate's heritage."

The MACH programme was launched on Thursday last week.

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Friday 17th September

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The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Saturday 18th September

The Fling

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 18th September

Left of the Dial

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Thursday 23rd September

Denny & Paul

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Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 24th September

Lead Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Tuesday 28th September

Roger Betts Jazz

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,
Sandwich 01304 612335

Thursday 30th September

Rich Phillips in Cabaret

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,
Sandwich 01304 612335

Saturday 2nd October

Barking Mad

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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Friday 2nd October

Vinyl Descent

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Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 3rd October

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PLAYTIME: Clockwise from top, actors Tim Faulkner and Anne Bird at rehearsals for First Impressions; artistic director Claire Farrington and director Mel Cook with Jane Bishop of the Walpole Bay Hotel; and Tracey Emin

New play hopes to give a lift to our 'wasteland'



■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

MARGATE artist Tracey Emin has given her backing to a new theatre production that aims to revive the fortunes of the stricken seaside resort.

First Impressions – which will be shown at the Theatre Royal on Friday and Saturday, September 24-25 – examines the potential impact the new Turner Contemporary gallery will have on the community, and how it could speed up the town's much-vaunted but long-awaited regeneration.

"I completely support all artistic ventures in Thanet, but this one sounds particularly interesting as it involves ideas about both art and theatre," said Emin, who was brought up in Margate and attended both the Medway College of Design and Maidstone Art College. "The fact it is to be performed at the Theatre Royal is another bonus.

"I'm sure the people of Thanet will also support this initiative to open and broaden ideas about art and creativity within the area."

Produced by the Net Curtains theatre



company and created by The Archers script-writer Tim Stimpson, First Impressions tells the tale of a Thanet councillor and his attempts to persuade the local authority to buy a Turner masterpiece discovered in a dead woman's home.

Artistic director Claire Farrington, 34, from Sandhurst, said: "I used to go to Dreamland a lot as a child but hadn't visited the town for years until I came back for a project I was working on in 2006.

"Arriving at the train station, I saw a wasteland of boarded-up shops and was just devastated.

"It sounds odd, but I was quite fascinated by the dilapidation and couldn't believe that it had been allowed to happen.

"I feel very sorry for the people living there at the moment because it's taking such a long time to get back on its feet."

Ms Farrington said: "The play shows that art can be inspiring, and the same applies to theatre. I'd like the production to be a catalyst for people to come down, stay for the weekend and then return again in future."

Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and can be booked by phoning 0845 130 1786.

• Visit www.netcurtains.org for more information on the production.

yourthanet.co.uk
NEWS IN BRIEF

Book cat-neutering service

THE RSPCA's mobile cat-neutering clinic will be on the isle for two days this month.

It will be sited at the RSPCA Woodchurch Animal Centre, Queensdown Road, Woodchurch, Birchington CT7 0HG, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 29-30.

To be eligible, people must be in receipt of benefit, which must include either council-tax benefit, free prescriptions, or both.

Cost of neutering is £20 for a female and £15 for a male, payable on the morning when the cat is delivered.

Anyone wishing to book two or more cats should pay in advance of booking.

Cats should not be fed for 12 hours before the appointment.

Microchipping is offered for an additional £10 per cat.

To book, phone 0797 382 3448 during office hours only. Bookings start for one week from Wednesday, September 22.

Sainsbury's helps Demelza

STAFF at Sainsbury's Thanet have been busy, raising more than £1,500 for Demelza Hospice Care For Children.

Over the past few months they had bucket collections and non-uniform days to help buy a minibus for the charity.

A 42-mile bike-ride was also held in memory of a girl called Amber who passed away, spending her final days at Demelza.

Thanks to the Sainsbury's scheme Local Heroes, the money given to Demelza Hospice Care For Children could be increased by an additional £200.

Houseplants on the agenda

THE Minster and Monkton Horticultural Society is to meet tonight (Wednesday) at Minster village hall.

It is the first meeting since the society's summer break and takes place at 7.30pm.

A spokesman said: "There will be a talk on care of houseplants and we hope to welcome many members and visitors.

"There will be free tea or coffee, a raffle and sales table and a plant competition."

On Saturday, September 18, from 2pm to 4.30pm, also in Minster village hall, the society is holding its autumn show, which is open for anyone to enter its many varied classes.

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Have your say on proposals for rental property licence

■ BY TOM BETTS

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on a proposal to introduce a new licensing scheme for privately-rented accommodation in parts of Margate Central and Cliftonville West.

The new selective licensing scheme is being proposed to help tackle the high levels of problems in the area such as antisocial behaviour, crime, fires and empty properties.

Under the new scheme, landlords in the designated area would be required to apply for a licence for every privately-rented flat, house or room to continue to operate in the area.

The licence will contain a series of conditions with which the property-owner will be required to comply.

The conditions will relate to the management of the property, fire safety and antisocial behaviour.

Landlords who own more than one property in the designated area would need to apply for a licence for each of the units of accommodation rented out.

There would be a charge of £525 per licence, which landlords would be required to cover.

A council spokesman said: "In other places where this type of scheme has been introduced, landlords have seen improvements such as less damage to properties, reduced

management costs and a slower turnover of tenants.

"It is also anticipated that in the longer term, as well as improving the image of the area and helping to improve the condition of housing, possible benefits could also include the possible rise in rent and property values."

Before adopting this scheme, the council is encouraging tenants, landlords and residents in the area to have their say on the proposal.

Chris Wells, cabinet member for community services, said: "One of the biggest issues for many years has been the huge supply in this area of privately-rented housing.

"Bringing in a licensing scheme for these properties will help to ensure better regulation, but before adopting the scheme it is important local people have an opportunity to tell us what they think."

"I would like to encourage anyone who has a view to make sure they take part in the consultation."

Everyone living in the area will be contacted by letter with details about the scheme and with information on how to take part, including a short tear-out survey.

Local people have until Monday, November 15, to submit comments.

A survey is also available to complete online by visiting www.thanet.gov.uk.

Additional comments can be submitted in writing either to hannah.thorpe@thanet.gov.uk or free of charge to Selective Licensing Consultation, FREEPOST SEA 82 73, Thanet District Council, Margate CT9 1XZ.



BIG ISSUE: Chris Wells says a licensing scheme would help ensure better regulation

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOE PASQUALE



Q Since leaving the Jungle in I'm a Celebrity you have taken up quite a few hobbies – what are they?

A Well, I still go boxing four times a week, and of course I've got my pilot's licence, but I've now taken up running and am planning on taking part in next year's London Marathon. I'm currently running 10 miles three or four times a week. I also go to the gym to work out with the pro boxers.

Boxing's a great thing – it teaches you how to deal with your aggression, let it go and then stop. But I'm not an aggressive person at all; if I'm sparring with someone at the gym I find myself apologising to them, even though you shouldn't say 'sorry' in a boxing ring!

I have also started painting, which I haven't done since I was a kid.

Q You worked your way up in showbiz through working as a comic at Pontins, but you also appeared on New Faces. What do you think of TV talent shows?

A I think they're a gift, but it depends which way you look at it. Richard Holloway, the producer of Britain's Got Talent, was the producer of New Faces when I did it and executive producer when I was doing The Price Is Right.

People like Richard and Simon Cowell have discovered that there are as many nutters around now as there were 20 years ago, and I was one of them, and there was just as much entertainment value in watching the auditions as the actual show.

Britain's Got Talent isn't that different from

New Faces or Opportunity Knocks in that they turn it round and show you the audition process.

If you put yourself up for these talent shows, you know what you're doing – and everyone wants their 15 minutes of fame.

Q Do you still like touring?

A I love the gigs, but the travelling is horrendous. We were playing Dudley, which is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from my house but which took 11 hours after we got stuck on the M25.

The travelling and hotels can be a nightmare – you are up until 2am to drive to the next gig, which is always great but the travelling there isn't.

Q Who are your big comedy influences?

A I was lucky enough to know Bob Monkhouse and was close to him at the end. He was a great influence in my life and my attitude to the business. He was a gentleman, with not a bad word to say about anyone. I did New Faces, and he asked me around and helped me get on to other shows. Like him, I'd rather be liked.

I also like Steve Martin: he was the first to do that random, anarchic kind of comedy, and a genius at stand-up – and then packed it in.

Q But you still enjoy performing...

A Yes, and if you don't, you have to remind yourself why you came into the business in the first place – the answer should never be for the money, but just for the job. Nobody ever starts doing it just for the money – I think there must be something wrong with comics who want to get on stage and say 'Please love me'. What's the need that makes you want to do that?

But I intended to be an actor, really, and I did a play recently with Stephen Berkoff for two nights at the New End Theatre in Hampstead.

Q Tell us about the new tour

A Well, it's called the ESP Tour and it features all sorts of craziness and a bit more of the ESP stuff.

I've always been quite intrigued by that sort of thing and the way that mind-readers use it – but I just take the mick out of it and people love it.

My favourite bits of the show are always the bits with the audience. To be honest, it's not something I really believe in, though.

• Comedian Joe Pasquale is set to appear at Central Hall, Chatham, on Sunday, October 10, before further dates on Friday, October 15, at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Sunday, October 17, at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, and Monday, November 8, at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

Q&A

The popular comedian speaks to **James Alexandre** about his forthcoming tour, which includes a date at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall, his hobbies and his opinion on TV talent shows – which worked for him

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Community sentence for carrying knives

A MAN who hit the streets with two knives in his pockets and said he wanted to "stab someone up" must complete 300 hours of unpaid work.

Stephen Barnes, of Millmead Road, Margate, wanted to confront a man he felt had "mugged him off" and took to the streets with the two blades and a fork in his pockets. He went looking for the man he felt had wronged him, having drunk a skinful of vodka and being being drugs.

He was arrested by police on night patrol on Saturday, August 21, in Northdown Park Road on suspicion of possession of the three items.

His eyes and nose were swollen from an earlier altercation and he was taken to the QEQM Hospital for medical attention, but he refused treatment from staff and was handcuffed for becoming aggressive.

The 20-year-old was taken to a side room but kicked over a trolley of medical equipment including sterile syringes.

Back at the police station in Margate he admitted possessing the three weapons in a public place and said he had intended to stab someone up.

Magistrates ordered Barnes to pay the hospital £50 in compensation and £85 court costs as well as complete the unpaid work.

Barnes, who claims Jobseekers Allowance but who has also since found work in the security industry, said he could pay the money at £5 a fortnight.

Magistrates said his actions ticked "four out of five boxes for culpability", those being carrying a dangerous weapon, planning to commit a violent act, being motivated by hostility and being under the influence of drink and drugs.

	<p>Circo Ridicoloso and Pleasance LIGHTER THAN AIR Sat 18th September 2.30pm All Tickets £5 suitable 3+ Deliciously whimsical balloon antics and make believe.</p>		<p>Tues 28th Sept 7.30pm Kelly, right. Kelly the bitch decides to have a party on the very same night as my sleep over - the very same night! And I know she's done it on purpose. And she invites everybody - absolutely everybody... except me of course... I want to die! I'm such a minger!</p>
	<p>Net Curtains Theatre Company FIRST IMPRESSIONS Fri 24th September 7.30pm Sat 25th September 2.30pm & 7.30pm £12/£10 A play about Margate - did you vote for the winning play in 2009? Come and see the finished product!</p>		
	<p>S4K MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Weds 6th October 10.30am & 1.30pm £16 Adults £9.50 children Shakespeare 4 Kids tells the Bard's tale of fairies fun, royalty and romance, magic and misunderstandings</p>		£10

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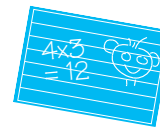
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BREAK TIME



ICE-BREAKERS: Dan Smith and David Robinson

Pair raise funds for African adventure

HARTSDOWN Technology College students Dan Smith and David Robinson are raising money for a charity trip to Kenya.

The 17-year-olds – whose fund-raising ideas have included selling ice-lollies in the summer to students – are raising cash for a two-week trip to Mombasa.

It will take place in October and be used as an opportunity to buy orphans much-needed clothing.

The sixth-formers – who will be teaching soccer skills and fitness-coaching to African children during their stay – are also raising money through five-a-side tournaments at Margate Football Club and a gig at the college.

Their charity, Margate-based JIM International, is focused on work with food, health and education issues for children and adults around the world.

Dan said: "The students and the college are being really supportive and are backing our fund-raising efforts."

MP Gale campaigns to get children walking to school

■ BY TOM BETTS

AN ISLE MP is encouraging children in his area to take part in Walk To School Month during October.

Pupils from east Kent will join thousands of children from across the UK and more than 40 countries worldwide next month to celebrate the benefits of walking to school.

Bundled

Roger Gale, who represents Thanet North, said: "I myself walked a couple of miles to and from school every day and I know from personal experience that it is a brilliant way to get some physical activity and some fresh air into your day."

"When children are bundled from front-door to car-door, they miss out on the opportunity to socialise with friends, get to know their community and burn off some energy before getting their heads down in the books."

"I'd encourage everyone in my constituency to join in and fit in a bit more walking this October."

A campaign spokesman said: "Walking to school regularly is a fantastic way to help reach the recommended daily 60 minutes of activity to benefit a child's health."

"Over the past two decades, the number of children who walk to school has dropped from 62 per cent to 48 per cent, with an enormous 43 per cent being

driven to school in cars – despite the fact that the majority of primary-school pupils live within a mile and a half of their school.

"By encouraging families to ditch the car-keys and get to school on foot, this month will show that it's not just PE lessons that are needed to give children the healthiest start in life – it's how active they are in their daily life that really matters."

"Teachers often report that those pupils who walk to school are more attentive in class."

"It's no surprise – the levels of physical activity undertaken by primary-school-age children are often greatly overestimated by parents."

"By simply walking to school and back each day, children will already be working towards reaching the 60 minutes of activity as recommended."

Charity

The week is promoted and run by national charity Living Streets, which works to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets around the UK.

Tony Armstrong, chief executive of Living Streets, said: "If we are to avoid the Government's prediction of a quarter of our children being obese by 2050, we need to start making changes to our lifestyle now."

"We would love everyone who normally drives the school run to use this month as an excuse to try walking."

"We think you'll be amazed at how enjoyable a regular walk can be."



STEPPING OUT: Thanet North MP Roger Gale used to walk to school

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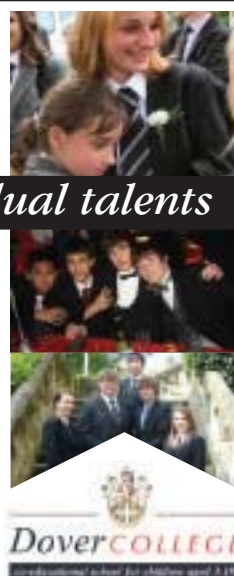
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YOUR LETTERS

Airport consultation dead on the runway

The Manston airport consultation process is pointless.

Thanet council is clueless. It is so lacking in ideas that it now views the airport as a golden bullet to cure the ills of Thanet.

It cannot be trusted to serve the interests of the local population any more than it can be trusted to ensure that legally-required air- and noise-monitors are in place at Manston.

And, of course, the monitors are missing and have been for some time.

Alistair, Ramsgate

Comment left on www.kentnews.co.uk

Manchester flights a sound business move

I was on the inaugural flight from Manston to Manchester on Monday, September 6.

We reached Manchester in just under one hour; the return flight took just 45 minutes.

The daily Manchester link will certainly provide a welcome boost to local business.

The world's largest offshore windfarm near Ramsgate will open in two weeks and the Turner Contemporary gallery in April next year.

As the Thanet & East Kent Chamber often reminds us: "It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet and east Kent".

David Foley

chief executive, Thanet & East Kent Chamber



CHIEF CONSTABLE: Ian Learmonth

Cuts will hit the police presence we deserve

The Chief Constable of Kent is right to point out what the current government's cuts will mean to police numbers across the county.

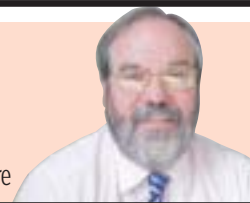
For those of us in Deal, the minimal police presence we had recently begun to enjoy will disappear.

Deal is generally a law-abiding place, so police will be directed from Deal to Dover, to fill some of the gaps left by Dover's police officers being moved to hotter crime hot-spots.

And the essential work of

your blogger

Conservative councillor Chris Wells on contentious plans for housing in Dalby Square



POLITICAL watchers in Thanet could be forgiven for rubbing their eyes and wondering if they have been experiencing an upside-down world of dreams.

The Conservative administration at Thanet council put forward plans to build new, affordable, family homes.

I am proud to be able to do something to help house more comfortably some of the 5,000 or so people on the housing waiting list for our area.

The local Labour party has protested and campaigned against these new family homes.

So is this the same Labour Party?

1. Which wanted larger and fewer flats in Cliftonville? Yes – but here they campaign against the provision of new affordable family homes, and only want flats!

2. Which opposes shared-service housing as 'the beginning of privatisation of council housing'? Yes – but here it opposes a nationally-recognised and registered social landlord, cynically describing it as a developer rather than the affordable-housing-provider it is!

3. Which backed its former government's stance to

build on greenbelt land to provide necessary social housing? Yes – but here a brownfield site, formerly housing, is hailed as 'peerless' green space!

4. Which nationally has repeatedly supported the ability to gift land to Registered Social Landlords to make social housing more affordable? Yes – but here local Labour attempts to tarnish this commonly-used policy as unusual.

5. Whose local leader and deputy leader live in the leafy avenues of Cliftonville East and Broadstairs? Yes – and perhaps there's the clue as to how far these champagne socialists have moved from understanding the needs of those on the housing waiting list, and in particular families in desperate need of better housing. Instead it is the Labour Party which offers Daily Mail-like attitudes, chanting 'not in my backyard' at every opportunity.

Come next May, I suggest you remember things like this. If you want self-righteous indignation, self-serving headlines and labyrinthine twists of policy to suit the moment, you should vote Labour.

If you want someone to get on with the job of improving people's lives, best vote Conservative.

As a famous meerkat might once have summarised: 'Simple'.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next Thanet blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

forensics, analysis and data-recording will take longer and longer, because they are not, according to the coalition, front-line services.

It will then take longer and longer to get criminals to court, always assuming that there are enough coppers about and enough back-up facilities to get a case together in the first place.

These cuts will take police off the streets and put the yobs back on them. These cuts will really hurt ordinary, decent people.

Whether they will have much impact on Mark Reckless, recently-elected Conservative MP, Medway councillor and member of the Police Authority, will remain to be seen.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour)
Dover District Council

having a look for themselves at what colleges have to offer.

I can't believe that no one, including the lad's parents, had no idea at all that he might not do well at maths, so why weren't they looking at the options?

It's too easy to let the school lead the way.

Let's face it, Mr Wright's own assertion that five GCSEs ain't up to much is a good indication of how academic you need to be to get a D in maths. If that's you, then get out there and look at the vocational courses on offer elsewhere.

M Triggs

Comment left on www.kentnews.co.uk

• And it's easy to blame the parents. Of course options are available and parents educate their children themselves.

However, schools have a duty of care to their students and this means they should be accessible by all relevant organisations. I would support proper consistent careers advice through secondary schools and an open-door policy rather than what currently is in place.

Secondary schools need to realise they are dealing with individuals not numbers.

Sue Cross

Comment left on www.kentnews.co.uk

• It is always the responsibility of the parents when it suits the school. Schools have a duty of care – after all, we entrust them with a very special commodity. Don't we?

Mrs S Payne

Comment left on www.kentnews.co.uk

• The major problem is that most teachers (not all) have only an academic background – in other

words, been to school, been to college and back to school and have had no relationship to the workplace in the real world and only recognise an academic qualification as being worthy as this is the route they have taken.

The example I can think of is a young man from a grammar school who came to us on work experience – talking to him, it came out in conversation that a teacher who was also the careers adviser was just out of university and was only 22 years old.

What experience did she have to be able to give advice to young people?

My son went to a secondary school and as a teenager would have never been able to cope, academically and emotionally, at grammar school.

He went to technical college and entered an electronics BTEC course.

He left at the end of the course with the qualification and was accepted by the BBC as an engineer, went on to become an engineering manager for the BBC and at 34 took an external university degree in music and now has 'BA Hons' after his name.

I feel that education continues after school, as does development of young people, and often it is the wrong decision to force children into an academic path rather than let them grow at their own rate.

Too much is put on them by schools and parents to aim for a degree course rather than allowing them to blossom at their own rate.

What is wrong being a plumber, a carpenter, a mechanic or an electrician if they are good at that and they feel that they are

contributing to society?

At the moment we have too many people who have degrees with no work – and not have enough people who can do the more practical work that we all need done.

Bootneck

Comment left on www.kentnews.co.uk

It's time to spill the truth over Peak Oil

Kent Green Party has written to all Kent MPs asking that they demand the Government release all of its material on Peak Oil.

Peak Oil is the global peak of cheap, recoverable oil supplies.

The German armed forces have investigated Peak Oil and conclude that supplies will peak this year.

Their report, leaked to the German media, is clearly concerned about public reactions to the impacts of Peak Oil upon prices.

Why is this of vital importance to the future of Kent? Our small town and rural communities, and years of neglect of public-transport services, make us very prone to car dependence and we have expensive bus and rail fares.

UK rail fares are the highest in the world. At a time when a double-dip recession is possible, a continued rise in oil prices could choke off economic recovery by radically increasing household, business and public-sector costs.

The public is entitled to know what the Government is deliberately hiding from us about Peak Oil.

We urge the public and the media Medway to lobby their MPs to bring the Government's data about Peak Oil into the public domain.

Steve Dawe
Kent Green Party

Game 'superfood' in the shooting season

October 1 heralds the official start of the pheasant-shooting season. As the season gets into full swing, there will be plenty of affordable, locally-sourced and tasty game meat available.

Described by TV chef Mike Robinson as a superfood, it is healthy, sustainable and highly nutritious. The popularity of game has been increasing over recent years and independent market researcher Mintel says annual sales should reach more than £84 million by next year.

The UK's largest shooting organisation, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), runs an innovative game-promotion campaign which we have extended this year due to popular demand.

Watch out for events in BASC's National Taste of Game Fortnight, from November 6-20.

Shoot-providers spend £250 million a year on conservation and shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the rural land area. So if you fancy trying game and would like some recipes, visit www.gameson.org.uk.

Debbie Collins
BASC



Nothing to stop lad looking at options

Last week's blogger Gary Wright talks sense but misses one point.

While schools may not allow colleges to attempt to spirit away their funding, there is presumably no ban on 15- and 16-year-olds

Prices applicable until 21st September 2010



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Working with events organisers and healthy school's coordinators, Move 'n' Smooth offer a complete events package that includes staff and all ingredients, and can present a range of activities and tailored workshops, developed by a panel of health and education professionals or just simply attend your event with our unique human powered fruit smoothie maker to provide a fully staffed interactive and fun, eco-healthy experience.

The Move 'n' Smooth experience can be used for company well-being events, educational health and science programmes, Green issues, fund-raising and much,much more.

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LEISURE 18-20



DAY & NIGHT

Auditions for panto

EXPERIENCED performers are being sought for the pantomime at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate.

The theatre is looking for lead actors and chorus members aged over 18, and younger cast members aged from eight to 18. The younger applicants can audition at the theatre at 2pm on Sunday.

To register email Trudi Kingham on t.kingham1@btinternet.com or call 01843 855000.

Poets perform to music

SOME of the UK's most talented poets will be reciting their verse at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable.

Tongue Tied takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday, with music from DJ Moogaloo.

Tickets cost £8/£6. To book call 01227 281174. Find out more at www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk.

Relationships explored

THE strange nature of relationships is explored in comic and sometimes touching fashion in Partners in Crime.

The hour-long monologue features a diverse mix of songs by Joni Mitchell and many others.

Partners in Crime can be seen at the Tom Thumb Theatre in Cliftonville at 8.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £10/£8. To book call 01843 221791 or visit www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk.

Maritime theme to folk

FIFTY performers are coming together this week to take part in the Deal Maritime Folk Festival.

Running from Thursday to Sunday, the event takes place across 10 venues and there will be lots of folk entertainment.

For full listings visit www.dealmaritimefolkfestival.org.uk.

Viola player performs

RISING viola star Robin Ashwell will be performing at Oare String Orchestra's concert in Faversham next week.

His achievements include being principal viola of the European Union Baroque Orchestra and playing with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The concert is at the Alexander Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday, September 25. Tickets cost £10 from Faversham Information Centre.

Pianist to open festival

PIANIST Annabelle Lawson opens the Deal Festival of Music and Arts' autumn concert series at 7.30pm on Friday.

Lawson's recital includes works by Bartok, Bach, Brahms, Falla, Ginastera and more at Deal Town Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and discounts are available for more than one concert. To book call The Sounds House on 01304 381134.

Author discusses book

MEET the author of Major Pettigrew's Last Stand when she visits Dover on Monday.

Helen Simonson will be talking about her quirky novel at Dover Library Theatre at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £2. To book your seat call 01304 204241.

Orchestra sails in to honour Chopin

DFDS SEAWAYS UNDER THE FLAG OF CHOPIN

Thursday, September 16,
Dover Harbour and Dover Town Hall



SOME special musical guests will be arriving in Kent in spectacular style tomorrow.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Chopin, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra is paying a visit to Dover to perform a special concert. But they will be travelling across the seas in eye-catching fashion, aboard Dar Młodzieży.

The three-mast frigate is a Polish sailing training vessel designed by Zygmunt Choren and launched at the Gdansk Shipyard in 1982.

During the day, visitors will be able to visit the ship, which was built for around the world trips and can stay at sea for up to 60 days. The ship won the 2006 World Cup regatta around Bornholm and now it is bringing the orchestra to Dover, as part of a series of celebratory concerts around Europe.

The orchestra is performing at Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Oslo and Boulogne-sur-Mer, as well as Dover.

The voyage, dubbed DFDS Seaways Under the Flag of Chopin, has been arranged in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Cultural Institute. It is also supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw and Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw.

Thursday's journey across the sea will culminate in a performance by the orchestra at Dover Town Hall at 7pm on Thursday.

Conducted by Jacek Kasprzyk, the concert will feature rising soloist Ewa Kupiec and includes some music which is appropriate for the seaside setting. The programme also includes Chopin's Fantasy on Polish Airs and Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E flat major.

Last year the orchestra played to a sell-out audience at Canterbury Cathedral, when Krzysztof Penderecki conducted his acclaimed St Luke Passion as part of the Sounds New Contemporary Music Festival.

Considered to be Poland's leading orchestra, it also acts as a cultural ambassador on the international art scene.

Born in a village in the Duchy of Warsaw in 1810, Chopin soon revealed himself to be a child prodigy pianist and composer. His education was completed in the city, but following the November 1830 uprising, he became part of the Polish Great Emigration when he moved to Paris.

He gave few public performances during his career, supporting himself by teaching and composing. For 10 years he shared a tempestuous relationship with female French writer, George Sand and their affair has been the focus of much interest, including a theatre show called The Last Ballade.



When Chopin first met Sand, she was the mistress of his friend, fellow composer Franz Liszt and he took an immediate dislike to her. But they later fell in love and their relationship ended just two years before his death.

His technically-demanding works are still extremely popular today, for although they are challenging, they also express great emotion and subtle nuances. Not only did he make major innovations to certain musical tech-

niques, he also invented the musical form known as the instrumental ballade.

Despite his genius, Chopin was not destined to live to an old age. Throughout his life he suffered from health problems and he died in Paris in October 1849, aged just 39.

Tickets for the concert cost £10/£8 and £25 for families of two adults and two children. To book visit the Visitors Information Office in Biggin Street, Dover or call 01304 205108.



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THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Saturday, September 18, and Sunday, September 19
Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

CRIME, greed and stupidity all feature in a double bill of plays under the banner, The Root of All Evil.

Katapult Productions presents the world premiere of the double bill at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, with both plays representing the great noir tradition. Filled with wise-cracking dialogue and money, retribution is always just around the corner in both stories.

American writer Rich Rubin has created a Tarantino-style comedy thriller in Maid/Man, set in a seedy motel room where

money and greed are about to open a sizeable can of worms.

In David Barry's comedy drama, A Friend of Ronnie's, the past is about to catch up with an unfortunate pal of Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs, 20 years after the crime.

Performances start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10.50 for club members and £12.50 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance.

To book tickets, call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk to reserve seats.



FARMING AND COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 18, and Sunday, September 19,
Farming World, Boughton

THE role of heavy horses in Kent farm life can be seen at Farming World's Farming and Country Festival.

This weekend, visitors can see the labour-intensive ways in which land was farmed 100 years ago. Heavy horses will demonstrate their power when they appear in the main arena on Saturday and plough the fields on Sunday, while showing off their elegant side in the heavy horse musical ride at the end of both days.

Vintage tractors and machinery can be seen throughout the

weekend, including a working Davidson Threshing Machine. Other attractions include bird of prey displays, parades by Blean Beagles, ferret racing and rural craft experts at work. There will be plenty of crafts to observe and to experience.

Over the last 20 years, the festival has raised more than £61,000 for good causes, and this year all proceeds will be donated to the Demelza House children's hospice in Sittingbourne.

To find out more, call 01227 751144 or visit www.farming-world.co.uk.

HG WELLS FESTIVAL

Friday, September 17, to Sunday, September 19
The Grand, Folkestone

TWO celebrity guests will help to celebrate a great author's legacy at the second HG Wells Festival.

Newsreader Peter Sissons and novelist Sandra Howard, wife of former Conservative Party leader Michael Howard, will be making appearances at the festival. Budding authors have entered the £1,000 short story competition and the awards will be presented on the Sunday.

The theme of this year's festival will be two books HG Wells wrote while living in Sandgate 100 years ago: *Kipps* and *The History of Mr Polly*. The author's grandson, Professor Dominic Wells, will be taking part in the festival dinner and discussion on Saturday evening.

Events include a free opening reception with Wells' biographer, Michael Sherborne, at 6pm on Friday, and a history walk through Sandgate at 11am on Saturday. A tea party takes place from 2pm with Edwardian entertainment on the lawn.

On Sunday there is coffee with the VIPs at 11am and a buffet lunch for the short story writers and ticket holders at 12.30pm. For more details, call 01303 222222 or visit www.wellsfestival.com.



MANDY WINTERS

Saturday, September 18, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

COUNTRY singer Mandy Winters will be providing an evening of live entertainment this weekend.

Winters has toured America and Europe, winning fans with her outstanding voice and warm personality. She was born into a show business family, as her father Ronnie Winters had much success in the 50s and 60s as 'the Yodelling Cowboy' and her mother Nola was one of this country's leading sopranos.

Their daughter began her singing career at just 14, when she became lead vocalist of country band, American Brew. After several British and European tours, she was still just 17 when she embarked on a solo career.

She also won two awards at the Nebraska Country Music Festival in 1994. Winters has developed her skill at yodelling and is now possibly the best female yodeller in Europe.

She will be supported by BBC Radio Kent's Paul Harris and Paul James. The concert will be held in aid of Ramsgate and Broadstairs Sea Cadets, the Deal Pathfinders and the Granville Theatre.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10/£9. To book call 01843 591750.



ROBERT COHEN

Tuesday, September 21
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

WORLD-renowned cellist Robert Cohen will be giving a concert to raise money for the new Marlowe Theatre.

The soloist, conductor, chamber musician and teacher made his debut at the Royal Festival Hall aged 12. Since then his sparkling career has led him to become a professor at the Royal Academy of Arts in London and at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano.

Peter Williams, chairman of the New Marlowe Theatre Development Trust, first heard Cohen play during one of the first revived Canterbury Festivals.

"It was a magical experience, full of artistry and passion and I have followed his career ever since," he said. "We are delighted and grateful that Robert has given his services to help the campaign to build the new Marlowe Theatre."

"We are very fortunate to have one of the world's greatest cellists recognise the importance of the new Marlowe Theatre, both culturally and economically, to this corner of England."

There will be a pre-performance reception at 7.15pm followed by the concert at 8pm. Tickets cost £25. Call 01227 787787 or go to www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk.



Picture: JP MASOLET

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One to watch

NOKIA N8 SEPTEMBER 23 will see Nokia launch its new N8. Nokia's dominance may have been overshadowed by the iPhone and all that talk of Android operating systems.

But remember, Nokia sells more phones in a month than Apple does two years, so the Finnish company knows its stuff. The N8 has a 3.5 inch screen, all the Facebook, Twitter and multi-media apps you could want as well as a cool music player and mighty 12-megapixel camera. And Pamela Anderson is doing the ads... Oh yes, the new N8 makes phone calls too.

Expected cost £480 sim free, contract around £30 a month.



Make your Apple last longer

MOPHIE JUICE PACK AIR

ANYONE who owns an iPhone knows the only real problem is its battery that doesn't last a day without recharging.

Apple fans will say it's because the iPhone does so much that you use it for everything; critics of the iconic phone say it's overpriced and Apple builds in obsolescence by sealing the battery inside.

So while other phones offer the option of carrying another fully charged battery to be truly mobile, Apple owners need to consider options like the Mophie Juice Pack Air.

It is in fact a really neat piece of kit, the latest from a manufacturer which has shown you can have longer life and good looks. It doubles your battery life and acts as protective cover.

There are two versions, one for the iPhone and the other for the iPod touch both around £60.

Running Wi-Fi, GPS and 3G on the iPhone 3G with the Juice Pack Air attached will yield about two full days of heavy use.

And similarly for the iPod touch we tested the juice pack on a 32gb version. Using it flat out for games, internet and music we saw 12 hours which really is double what the iPod touch normally managed.

The only disadvantage is while the case is on the loudspeaker doesn't work so you need headphones. And in place of the Apple lead you get a mini USB which can charge from your computer port or with common adapter plugs.

For my 13-year-old son it transformed his experience especially when we went on holiday. His 8gb Touch never went flat so long and he remembered to charge it when not in use. He also loved the slightly larger case.

First the iPod charged, then the juice pack. Effectively you can switch the juice pack on to recharge an ailing iPod too.

There are two groups of people who will benefit. Games addicts and iPhone users who use the full range of facilities. And I reckon that's about everyone.

Recommended 8/10.
See www.mophie.com

Sensible tablet?

DELL STREAK IS it a giant phone or sensible sized Apple iPad?

The new Dell Streak defies easy classification with its whopping five-inch screen allowing you to watch videos with less squinting and pinching it's sure to attract a following.

It has a camera in the front for video calls and one at the back to take 5-meg pictures (and video).

It packs a superfast 1GHz chip and SD memory cards so you can store as many movies and games as you need.

It runs Google's Android system (like the X10 below) which is the closest everyone else has to Apple's clever operating system but without the restrictions. Thousands of apps for every need you might have... and many you don't yet know you do.

A small, portable tablet then - a year ago we wouldn't have imagined such a thing.

Dell Streak, around £35 on contract with unlimited internet.



Why size matters to Xperia X10 users

SONY ERICSSON XPERIA X10

SONY Ericsson reckons the Xperia X10 is so good they even brought out a fun-size version the X10 Mini.

And this range of flagship phones is an entertaining choice with some nice software that brings social networking and media galleries together in two easily navigated streams.

The large Xperia X10 and its cigarette-box size brother, the keyboard-equipped X10 mini Pro, both look the part boasting a sleek, black body and sparkling screen.

And the phones have brains as well as beauty with powerful processors running Google's Android operating system and great cameras, with the X10 packing a whopping 8.1 megapixel shooter.

The mini is not far behind with a decent 5 megapixel offering.

Sony Ericsson has added its own features to the standard Android package, commonly called a skin.

This consists of Timescape - which brings together all your social feeds from Twitter to text messages into one media stream - and Mediascape - which does the same but for photos and video, allowing you to view albums on Facebook as well as those stored on your phone.

Timescape presents you with a smooth-scrolling stream of tweets, texts and status updates, but it's pretty much just a viewer. To see the message you tap once, but to reply you have to open a separate app, be it Twitter, text messages or Facebook.

Mediascape on the other

hand is a great addition, and it is nice to have all your pictures in one place, especially displayed on the X10's brilliant screen.

The only downside is currently the phones still run an elderly version of Android.

Stuck on 'droid 1.6, users miss out on Microsoft Exchange support, a deal-breaker for many business customers, and it can only support one Google account at a time. There are workarounds - I used an app which came bundled with the review phone called Moxier Mail. It does the job, but it's not the integrated experience it should be on a phone like the X10.

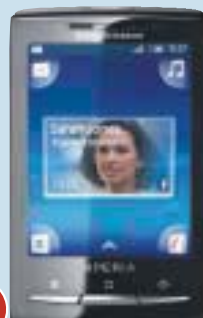
And despite the power of the hardware, you will find moments where the otherwise responsive screen drags and stutters.

But wait! News just in is that this month Sony Ericsson will finally be updating the whole Xperia range to Android 2.1. This means Exchange support, faster Bluetooth, live wallpapers and five home screens on which to keep all your favourite Android apps.

So now really is a good time to pick up this soon-to-be-even-more powerful smartphone.

Because compared to Apple's ubiquitous iPhone, the X10 is preposterously good value. It's free on most contracts, and you can find one for £255 sim free.

Considering its capable camera, this really isn't bad for quality hardware, especially as you know the software is going to be updated in a couple of weeks.



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yourcompetition

WIN! tickets to Take That tribute night

FOLLOWING the incredible success of last year's event, Ramsgate Round table has decided to run a bigger and better tribute night at the Margate Winter Gardens on October 2.

The event features The Take That Experience, who are fast becoming the UK's premier tribute band.

This year promises to be bigger and better with the group recreate the true experience of Take That with replica costumes from the stadium tour The Circus, brilliant choreography and of course the music that everybody loves.

This superb show is packed with the hits including Back for Good, Relight My Fire, Could It Be Magic, Patience, Shine, Rule The World, Up All Night, Greatest Day and many more.

The event is being run to raise funds for Dave Lee's Happy Holidays, formed in 1994, which has since raised nearly £2 million to help send sick, disabled and underprivileged children from Kent on holidays and outings.

With the charity being run by volunteers from their own homes, the organisation is proud of the fact that there are no payments

for office rent or staff costs, so all the money raised goes to where it is needed most – the children.

Thousands of children and their families have enjoyed trips to Disneyland Paris, week-long holidays at the charity's caravans at Camber Sands, tickets to the annual pantomime at The Marlowe in Canterbury and even a trip to Lapland for 230 people to celebrate the raising of the first £1m.

Ramsgate Round Table is an organisation set to raise charitable funds in the local area. We have raised nearly ten thousand pounds for local causes this year including BBC children in Need, Demelza house, the RNLI along with smaller donations to local scout groups, youth clubs other charitable organisations.

To find out how to get involved, visit our website at www.ramsgateroundtable.org.uk.

The prizes are ten pairs of VIP tickets to the event and to enter, simply answer this question:

Take That's Last tour was called?

A) The Fun Fair?

B) The Circus?

C) The Park?

Send your entry on a postcard along with

your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Take That experience Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date Friday, September 24 2010. No purchase necessary.

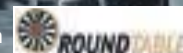
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Happy Holidays

Meet Tamara Drewe – country life will never be the same again

■ BY DAMON SMITH

A NEW life in the country is a messy business in Stephen Frears's rollicking comedy, based on Posy Simmonds's much-loved graphic novel.

Shot on location in Dorset, during an unseasonably hot spell last October, Tamara Drewe chronicles one turbulent year in the life of a young woman struggling to come to terms with the death of her mother.

The people she touches during the grieving process also undergo transformations, gaining the strength to make tough decisions about their personal relationships or pursue deep-rooted obsessions to their catastrophic conclusion.

Screenwriter Moira Buffini draws inspiration from Simmonds's illustrations to sketch finely detailed characters complete with moral flaws, retaining the spirit of the book while playing to the strengths of film.

Gemma Arterton is perfectly cast as London newspaper journalist Tamara, who returns to the cosy village of Ewedown to sell her late mother's cottage.

Blessed with a cosmetically-sculpted new nose and a sense of style that sets her apart from her Wellington boot-clad neighbours, Tamara turns heads of the men folk.

She hires childhood sweetheart and handyman, Andy Cobb (Luke Evans), to oversee repairs whilst encouraging lustful glances from celebrated thriller writer and serial philanderer, Nicholas Hardiment (Roger Allam), who treats his wife Beth (Tamsin Greig) like a skivvy and is ill-suited to the rural setting.

"I don't like cows. They exude bovine malice," he complains.

Tempers flare when Tamara begins dating Ben Sergeant (Dominic Cooper), drummer and driving force behind rock band Swipe.

Schoolgirls Jody (Jessica Barden) and Casey (Charlotte Christie), obsessive fans of Ben,



LOVE RIVALS: Gemma Arterton as Tamara Drewe, and right, Jody (Jessica Barden) and Casey (Charlotte Christie)

harbour dreams of stealing the rock god away from Tamara, and they will stoop to any depths to get their man.

Meanwhile, Beth enjoys compliments from American scholar Glen (Bill Camp), who cannot disguise his admiration for everything that she does, gushing excitedly: "If it were possible to have an orgasm from food, these mince pies would do it!"

Tamara Drewe puts a joyful and sometimes darkly humorous spin on Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd*, with Arterton's sexy heroine at the centre of the bed-hopping and intrigue.

Allam's adulterer elicits pantomime boos with every act of treachery, and Greig tugs the heartstrings with a tour de force performance as a down-trodden cuckold, who notices her husband's natural glow after one liaison and innocently chirps: "You're buzzing like my electric toothbrush just after I've changed the batteries."

Cooper gets lost in the mix, while the double-act of potty-mouthed youngsters Barden and Christie pickpocket all the best exchanges, including one quip about teapot lids that might just turn out to be one of the lines of the year.



TAMARA DREWE
Certificate 15 

PICTURE: CHANNEL 4



TO THE RESCUE: Property expert Sarah Beeny has sound advice for housebuyers



YOUR TV REVIEW

HELP! MY HOUSE IS FALLING DOWN: Channel 4, 8pm, Tuesday

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THIS latest television venture into the UK's mercurial housing market deals with families who have made singularly terrible decisions when investing in that 'dream home'.

Never mind that it has dry rot, wet rot, woodworm, a rat infestation, death watch beetle, masonry bees, and a flooding cellar – these families bought their wrecks anyway. And they did not even think to get a structural survey.

In this new programme Channel 4 has roped in property veteran Sarah Beeny to help hapless homeowners sort out their eye-wateringly foolish purchases.

I watched a couple from Garden Village in Hull struggle against their 100-year-old forever home, which was being torn apart by magnificent yet treacherous trees.

The roots had destroyed sewage

pipes and the trees' thirst for water had made the soil dry up and the house subside. This in turn had produced cracks in masonry and windows, leaving the whole place damp and rotting.

And woodworm was happily eating its way through floorboards and structural beams.

The show's producers dealt with this grizzly situation by introducing comically nightmarish music throughout, and a series of melodramatically colourless shots depicting the worst of the defects.

Even the usually upbeat Sarah Beeny has been told to keep her commentary to a hushed monotone, lending the programme a bizarrely gothic feel.

But the programme does have several redeeming features. Ms Beeny gives her usual brand of friendly, helpful and practical advice. She is also not too shy to tell people what needs doing.

The programme is littered with hints and tips for those with similar problems, from how to spot whether your woodworm is alive to the perennial plea to get a full structural survey.

And rather than introduce too much false melodrama, the couple I watched got to enjoy an experiment showing that, despite months of sleepless nights, their house was not actually going to topple down. The programme does show that, even if you have bought a ridiculously dubious-looking house, it will probably be okay given enough money, care and attention.

yourmusic

One-day charity festival plays on community spirit



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE annual charity extravaganza that is Antfest is upon us once again, showcasing a wide variety of Kent's musical talent.

Organised by musician and promoter Anthony Martin, the one-day event has become a staple of the Kent music scene and 2010 has more bands than ever before, playing across two stages at the Command House in Chatham this weekend.

Headlining on the outdoor stage is Maidstone-based pop punk outfit One Day Elliott, while indoors Beneath the Harbour will be thrashing out their brutal brand of metal.

Also playing are unhinged folk act Los Salvadores, rockers Strange Day and punk band The Startover.

As well as raising money for The Arethusa Centre, Anthony says the event is about celebrating the diverse talent in the county.

He said: "I've been in bands since I was 17 and in my 11 years I've met lots of awesome people. These people are the first on my list when booking Antfest."

"Then I book young bands too so that they get to see and hang out with the previous generation of bands and maybe we can learn a thing or two from each other."

"We've got the old generation of bands like Los Salvadores, One Day Elliott and 3dBsDOWN still alive and kicking, the next generation of bands like The Startover and Adelaide progressing and doing really well in the wider world of the scary music industry and the younger generation of bands like Luke

Jackson, Escape From Alcatraz coming through and reminding us what it was like to be young, vital and energetic!"

"I like to keep a sense of camaraderie between the bands I book, any divas will not be pandered to and in the past I've refused to book bands again that don't fit in with the community ethos. It's fun and friendly and awesome!"

The Arethusa Centre is a Venture Centre which gives disadvantaged children the opportunity to take part in activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and sailing.

Anthony said: "The reason I raise money for it is because my grandfather Charles Tindal worked there after he retired from Kingsnorth Power Station until he sadly passed away."

Antfest is on Saturday, September 18, at The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham. The music starts at 2pm.

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MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change, Deal
- 2 Ron Bowdery - This is Kelpie, New Eltham
- 3 Save Target As - You've Got Me, Deal
- 4 Vivid Nation - What Will Be, Canterbury
- 5 The Suspects - War of The Words, Margate



ISLAND PARADISE: The relaxed guest house on Banana Island, which was once a slaving port, and the red dirt road to Tiwai Island (below)

yourgetaways

Beautiful Sierra Leone has left the memories of war behind

■ BY JAMES EDGAR

AS we creep along the jungle trail it's difficult to imagine that just a decade ago this was a lawless land where rebels roamed.

Gun-toting militiamen ravaged this wildlife sanctuary deep in Sierra Leone's south-east forest, killing animals for food and fun, stealing anything they could find and flushing out the community.

Tony Blair had to send troops in to Freetown to rescue British citizens.

Now tour operator Exodus takes Britons back there on holiday; on guided group tours offering a mix of local culture, wildlife, great beaches and organised activities like canoe trips and midnight snorkelling.

Certainly, life is thriving again on the wildlife sanctuary of Tiwai Island.

Eleven species of monkey rule the forest and the elusive pygmy hippopotamus roams the beds of the lazy Moa River.

Scores of bird species live in treetops above the majestic buttress roots and dense bush far beneath.

We took a walk at dawn, a good time to see animals, and mysterious rustlings and cracking branches indicated there were plenty about.

Our guide, Mohamed Koroma, from Kambama village, started work in the forest as a teenager.

He talked about the day the rebels came: "When they reached the village, they asked us to cross with them. Someone refused and they killed him."

Tiwai Island typifies proud and beautiful Sierra Leone, a country roughly the size of Wales and 60 per cent Islamic.

Where terror once ruled, natural beauty now pervades and its people want to share it with visitors.

As you land in Sierra Leone, after a six-hour flight from London, all

FACT FILE: SIERRA LEONE

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Capital	Freetown
Language	English and Krio
Population	6,400,000
Currency	Leone
Religion	Muslim and Christian

James travelled with Exodus, which offers an eight-day trip to Sierra Leone, departing Jan 21, 2011, from £2,399 inc return flights, transfers, accommodation, activities, most meals and tour leader. Reservations: 0845 863 9601 and www.exodus.co.uk. Return flights Heathrow-Freetown with bmi start at £883. bmi reservations: 0870 607 0555 and www.flybmi.com.



you see from the window is deep green forest and rust-red earth. This can only be Africa.

At Lungi Airport on the western coast, the heat envelops you. Our long wait at the luggage carousel was eased by friendly West African greetings. Unlike many undeveloped airports, people are keen to help.

Lungi is across the huge natural harbour from Freetown, the bustling capital, so we caught the boat for the half-hour sea trip.

We explored the city on foot, via the indoor market, where bartering for wooden figurines and ornate fabrics is part of the fun.

Inside St George's Cathedral we found calm amid all the commotion.

In the heart of the capital is the iconic Cotton Tree, where Sierra Leoneans gather for celebrations. Its huge canopy spreads like a comfort blanket over a central square.

Freetown witnessed so much terror during the 1991 to 2002 civil war, but tourist chiefs plan to change this war-torn image.

To the south of the Western Area peninsula lie the Banana Islands,

places of incredible beauty which are scarred with an ugly history.

Sierra Leone was a hub of the slave trade, and the islands were slaving ports.

It's tough to visualise these atrocities as you stroll along the beaches and swim in calm, warm seas.

A few yards from the shore, beach huts are spacious and comfortable. At our request, restaurant staff swam out for fresh lobsters.

After soaking up the rays, we drove into the hills of the peninsula to Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, which cares for 100 abused chimps before returning them to the wild.

Sierra Leone's second city, Bo, is six hours' drive from Freetown.

A walk around the maze of narrow alleyways in the food market challenges the senses. Chillies of every colour are strewn across tables, the smell of pungent dried fish fills the air and traders shout their prices.

A rough diamond in West Africa, Sierra Leone is rich in natural beauty and genuine hospitality, and eager to invite the world to share it.

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MOTORS NEWS



Just business as usual as Ford retains No1 status

FORD remains No1 in the UK motor market, after leading registrations in August and being overall sales leader so far this year despite the loss of the Scrappage scheme as a stimulant.

The top sellers are a familiar No1-No2 partnership of the Fiesta supermini and the Focus family hatch, while the brand's Galaxy MPV and Transit and Fiesta vans head their respective sectors.

Ford of Britain MD Nigel Sharp said the robust performance was down to clearer pricing, new ads and "our best ever vehicle range."



Chevy Captiva tuned to capture more buyers

CHEVROLET has updated its value-for-money five/seven-seat Captiva SUV to take it more upmarket.

Front end tidying up includes new corporate twin grille styling; the cabin has been upgraded; and there are new engines and transmissions with front-wheel drive and 4x4 layouts.

The new power comes from a 171bhp 2.4-litre petrol unit and two 2.2-litre turbodiesels with 163bhp and 184bhp and the most intriguing aspect will be how these interact with a re-tuned chassis claimed to improve the big Chevy's cornering, roll characteristics and ride feel.



Mazda bucks market

DARTFORD-based Mazda UK hit a new market share milestone in August - 3.8 per cent of the retail market and 2.7 per cent of the overall market, including fleet sales.

"We're bucking the industry trend and selling above our own targets," said David Wilson-Green, national sales manager.

In a market down 17.5 percent on a year ago, combined sales of models like the Mazda6 (pictured) rose 4.4 percent over August 2009 and sales so far this year are 17.9 per cent up on a year ago.



BIG DIFFERENCE: Kia's new Sorento couldn't look more different to its predecessor, it's lighter and handles better on-road, but it can still tackle rough terrain when the need arises

Big softy makes its point

HAVING produced one of the best value serious off-roaders in the business before, has Kia gone soft on us with the new Sorento?

The Korean brand admits it can sell more units by abandoning the 'rough tough 4x4' sector and Sorento prices are as keen as ever, though the £21,455 five-seat, front-wheel drive only entry model with a 2.4-litre 172bhp petrol engine is slower and thirstier than the 2.2-litre 194bhp diesel - the must buy from an extra £1,800 that also brings seven seats.

The Sorento now straddles the SUV (sports utility vehicle) and MPV sectors and is close to the Volvo XC90 SUV for a lot less money and with Kia's now universal seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

It could not differ more from its predecessor; the classic 'body on ladder frame' for off-roader rigidity over rough terrain has made way for a one-piece body akin to a standard car.

It means the newcomer is lighter, more stylish and far better on-road, yet 4x4 versions (from £24,495) can tackle fairly dodgy terrain too - as I proved at the launch earlier this year.

ROAD TEST KIA SORENTO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

And now, after a whole week with the car, I like it even more. The diesel might sound a little gruff, but has plenty of low-down urge for this big car in busy traffic, while allowing economical cruising, averaging around 40mpg in manual or auto form - both six-speeders.

The car's height and bulk are controlled well when driven with spirit too, while Kia's increasing mastery of decent interiors at value prices is also evident.

However, the test car's silver-coloured plastic highlights already showed some scuffing, which does not bode well for how they might look in a year's time.

The cabin is huge and airiness was enhanced by a panoramic sun roof - with electric opening/tilt on the front section - standard on our £30,005 KX-3 4x4 flagship model.

Both rear rows of seats are easily managed for whatever mix of seating and cargo is required and second row seats rake so that passengers can snooze on long journeys; the new Sorento really does crossover/MPV duties rather well.

Of course, there are brand snobs who might crave more status, but why spend more and settle for a piffling warranty too?



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3x1 Max. 25 words

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05 Ford Focus C-Max 1.6 MPV 5dr
in Panther Black, 42561 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£30.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23* APR 9.9% Typical				

06 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Diesel Hatchback 5dr
in Metallic Blue, 71034 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£31.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23* APR 9.9%				

04 Ford StreetKa 1.6 Convertible 2dr
in Silver, 71067 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£3899	£389.90	£84.13	£54.00	£234.31
Total Amount Payable £4748.32* APR 9.9%				

07 Kia Sedona 2.9 Diesel MPV 5dr
in Silver, 31095 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£8699	£869.90	£190.85	£43.00	£340.64
Total Amount Payable £10350.49* APR 9.9%				

07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Hatchback 5dr Manual
in Silver, 79288 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5499	£549.90	£119.70	£27.00	£269.90
Total Amount Payable £6615.70* APR 9.9%				

07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Hatchback 5dr
in White, 22859 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£6999	£699.90	£153.05	£35.00	£303.07
Total Amount Payable £8366.32* APR 9.9%				

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07 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 22859 MILES	£6999	
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A3, SPORT TDI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 67000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, TDI Sport, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 74000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, S3 QUATTRO, 2002, black, 81241 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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A3, TDI SE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag trip computer remote central locking, blue, 101000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, 1r56uyl, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, 07956 158119, black, 18941 miles, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, yb56rzc, half leather, multi-function steering wheel, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, trip computer, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, grey, 0 miles, £10900, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.2 SE CONV SAT NAV, 1s04ghk, full leather, satellite navigation, air con, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, cd player, radio, stereo, black, 52817 miles, £9999, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows, red, 50 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £10990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4 Rhythm HDI, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player diesel drivers airbag full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking, carlante grey, 4487 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Splash 5dr Hatch Special Edition, pas, abs, air con, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, steel wheels, cloth seat trim, rear wiper, blue, 17540 miles, £6695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 5dr Hatch, gy58vux, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, rear wiper, front head restraints, red, 11340 miles, £5695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 3dr Hatch, gv57vmz, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, steel wheels, rear wiper, blue, 18035 miles, £5695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 5dr Hatch, bv08upo, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, steel wheels, rear wiper, blue, 18035 miles, £5695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, Vibe, 2008, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering single cd player, red, 22000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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Car shown is a Journey 2.0 CRD RT Manual £22,595 OTR. *Range pricing of £16,995 refers to Journey 2.4 SE Manual, including Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), first registration fee and VAT. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £450 including VAT. †Excluding SE models. ‡RT models only. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press 09/10. **Promotion available on new Dodge Journey models registered between 1st and 30th September 2010 at participating dealers. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Chrysler Group Financial Services, PO BOX 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Follow the advice of the experts for a smoother move

Moving home can be a nightmare but LINDSEY DAYKIN of Pickfords Removals suggests some top tips to help make the stress much less!

1 CHOOSE A REMOVAL COMPANY

Make sure your movers are a member of the British Association of Removers. BAR is a trade association, which fosters fair practice and high standards.

2 CHOOSE A PACKING OPTION

The cost of your move will vary based on the type of packing service you choose, from a full packing service, just having your fragile items packed professionally or packing yourself.

3 COMPARE QUOTATIONS.

If you have invited more than one removal company to quote, check the quotations carefully. Different firms may recommend different services. Compare the number of days that the companies recommend the move will take and compare the costs of insurance and the types of packing services.

4 A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Show all the removal companies exactly the same household effects. Remember the loft, the garage and the garden shed. Your quotation will be based on the volume of goods that the removal company's sales person has seen.

5 CONSIDER STORAGE

If you can't move straight into your new home, short or long term storage at a facility close to your new home could be a flexible solution. Your removal company will collect and deliver your consignment to store.

6 BE AWARE OF UNEXPECTED COSTS

Some homeowners may experience a delay in receiving the keys to their new home and in these cases additional costs would be incurred.

7 ASK YOUR REMOVAL COMPANY FOR ADVICE

Most moving companies will be able to provide a hint and tips list. Plan all your tasks and delegate some tasks to other members of the family so that no one person is inundated with work.

8 TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS

A removal vehicle is the same size as a bus and may cause an obstruction in your road. Parking permits may have to be arranged, so check with your local authority.

9 MAKE A SPACE PLAN

Make a plan of your new property and mark up the position of the furniture. This will help the crew on delivery day to place furniture to your instructions.

• To contact the British Association of Removers go to www.bar.co.uk.



A great time to get on to the property ladder

The heady lending days of mid-2007 might be over but BRIAN MURPHY, head of lending at the Mortgage Advice Bureau, says there are still a range of mortgages available

BORROWERS may no longer have access to 100 per cent mortgages, but loans at up to 90 per cent are now more in evidence and the bigger deposit you can commit, the better the deal you will obtain.

A company such as the Mortgage Advice Bureau would always recommend any borrower to seek the advice of an independent mortgage broker, who will assess your individual needs and recommend the most appropriate deal for your personal circumstances.

The costs of mortgages are generally at unprecedented low levels as a result of the bank base rate being at an historically low level of 0.5 per cent.

With lenders having started to regain their appetite for lending once again, many have responded with some very attractively priced products for all sectors of the market, including first-time buyers, home movers and those looking to refinance.

Potential borrowers need to demonstrate a history of being able to service existing bor-



rowing, including regular repayments of credit cards, unsecured loans and utility bills.

Income is obviously the cornerstone of the ability to borrow and lenders are now less likely to take into account variable elements of pay.

Borrowers at the moment are broadly split between those opting for fixed rates and those

going for variable. The vast majority of variable products are now tracker mortgages, where the rate is linked to a benchmark usually the bank base rate (BBR).

With lenders now under increased scrutiny to ensure that they are lending responsibly, mortgage interest rates are priced to reflect the risk that a particular loan to value or type of borrower represents.

Someone looking to borrow below 60 per cent of a property's value can obtain a mortgage for under three per cent on a two-year fixed rate basis, whereas a first time borrower looking at 90 per cent of the property's value will be looking at around 6-6.5 per cent for a two-year fixed rate deal.

For those who may think home ownership is out of reach, a number of schemes exist that are specifically designed for those on lower incomes or with limited deposits.

These shared equity schemes are government funded and are run under the banner of 'affordable home ownership'.

Specific details can be obtained at www.homesandcommunities.co.uk.

In short, an equity loan is offered that provides up to 30 per cent of the purchase price on which no repayments are required for up to five years.

The scheme is available under the title HomeBuy Direct to allow purchasers to buy selected new build properties on sites that have been approved through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Relax and save in your new home

WHEN you buy a brand new home life takes on an entirely different perspective.

It becomes more relaxed and there's an extra special pride and joy in welcoming family and friends to your new surroundings.

There are no nagging worries about getting the roof fixed or the windows and doors draught-proofed or making sure the heating system will see you through another winter.

In fact, you are moving towards a relatively trouble-free lifestyle that will enable you to do many more of the things you ought to have been enjoying before.

It will be cheaper to run and maintain, and much more comfortable all year round.

You can relax in the knowledge that your new home will have been designed and built to a high standard. In fact, this year customer satisfaction has reached record levels.

New homes are much greener too. They are built to exacting performance levels making them 60 per cent more energy efficient, generating savings of more than £500 a year on fuel bills against less efficient older properties.

New homes are built with materials and components that have been through the R&D



mill to ensure they provide maximum performance when they are an integral part of your new dwelling.

Architects and specifiers know they can rely on what the building product manufacturers make and consequently housebuilders have great materials and components to work with.

Every new home is extremely well insulated. They are fitted with high performance windows and doors, and include energy-efficient heating and hot water systems as well as low energy lighting.

If you live in an older home then within the next few decades you might find it necessary to bring it up to higher energy efficiency standards or you might have difficulty selling when the time comes. Carrying out this improvement work could cost as much as £30,000 for the average UK property.

But if you are buying a home built to today's high standards you are sitting pretty, and will already be making your considerable contribution to reducing UK carbon emissions.

The kitchen is usually the most important room in any new home, with a choice of stylish new units, the latest ovens and appliances as well as new tiling and floor coverings.

Bathrooms are now the second most important room in the house. Like the kitchen they add the other wow-factor to a new home. But modern bathrooms don't just look good, they do good as well.

In the average second-hand home, water consumption can be as high as 150 litres per person per day. In a new home designed to even the modest Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, water consumption is reduced to 105 litres per person.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF MOVING, TAKE A LOOK AT HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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Guide: £100-105,000



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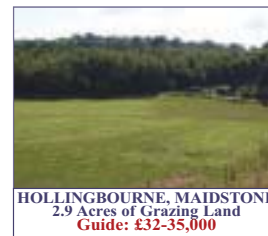
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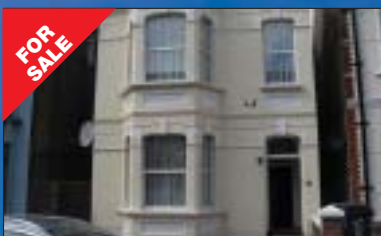
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Birchington Office

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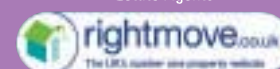
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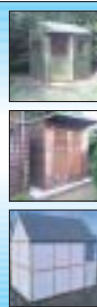
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Pictures DAVE STEWART



ON THE ATTACK: Thanet's Stuart Plumridge (in blue)

Wanderers storm back from opening day defeat

Thanet Wanderers 18 Wimbledon 3

THANET Wanderers go into Saturday's derby at Dover on a high after bouncing back from their opening-day drubbing to beat Wimbledon.

Having found themselves on the wrong end of a 51-5 scoreline at London Irish Amateur, Wanderers regrouped and adopted a more familiar gameplan for Saturday's game.

Ian Lodge, Thanet's director of rugby, said the change had paid dividends and credited the young players who were left shell-shocked at Irish the previous weekend.

He said: "Last week we were trying to throw

RUGBY

the ball around but this week, we were more controlled and compact, which resulted in quite a lot of dominance around the ruck area. That was the difference – Wimbledon were aggressive and they had some handy backs, but we didn't let them play.

"Tom [Carlier]'s an experienced coach and he changed the gameplan to try to control things. It was a massive effort from everyone because last week's defeat, against a very strong London Irish side, was a shock for some of the guys."

Saturday's trip to Crabble promises to be another testing encounter for Thanet, but they will take heart from Dover's 21-16 defeat at the hands of Beckenham at the weekend.

Andy Letts may be fit to return to the Wanderers back-row, but Richard Eldridge is still out [broken hand].

With the league only a fortnight old, Lodge was hesitant to draw too many conclusions about Wanderers' competitors at this point.

"It's tough to know, because teams change so much," he said. "However, Wimbledon beat us twice last year so it was good to lay down a marker."

Langley insists there's still room for improvement

FOOTBALL

VICTORY over Whyteleafe has eased the pressure on the Ramsgate management team, but assistant manager Richard Langley admits there is still much to be worked on.

The win was Ramsgate's first of the season and it provided a timely boost for Langley and manager Jim Ward, who watched their side convincingly beaten at Sittingbourne four days earlier.

Langley felt the decision to switch formation played a part in Saturday's performance and hopes the Rams will take confidence from the result.

He said: "It was much better and hopefully the critics will give us a couple of days' breathing space.

"You get judged on your last game and there were a lot of positives on Saturday, but if we have a poor game, people will just remember the bad things. There were a few bad bits on Saturday, but they were out-weighed by the good things.

"We did okay and it was a good performance but in truth, there's still areas where we need to improve. We went 4-4-2 to be more solid and defensively, the fancy football went out of the window."

Goalkeeper Danny Twyman broke his hand towards the end of Saturday's game and the Rams must now decide whether to persist with out-of-form Conor Quinn or look elsewhere for a replacement stopper.

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We'll bring you updates from the game involving your side, so if you are a Maidstone, Ramsgate, Margate, Sittingbourne, Faversham or Chatham supporter, our site is the only place to see how your side are doing.

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Pictures DAVE STEWART

ROUT: (l-r) Goalscorer Joe Taylor and Ben Laslett during Ramsgate's win over Whyteleafe, which will give the players a confidence boost after last week's defeat by Sittingbourne

Rams battle back from loss with five-star performance

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Ramsgate 5

Axon 8, 26, Lovell 40, 67, Taylor 76

Whyteleafe 0

RAMSGATE chalked up their first win of the season as Whyteleafe were put to the sword in a one-sided contest at Southwood Stadium.

Having been badly exposed by Sittingbourne four days earlier, Jim Ward's side badly needed a boost and three goals before the half-time interval on Saturday settled everyone around the ground.

The Surrey side finished with ten men after Daryl Coleman was shown a straight red card late on, but the result had been put beyond any doubt long before that.

However, the visitors had two chances to take the lead in the first five minutes, with Darren Watson shooting wide inside 60 seconds after stealing through the Rams backline.

Watson went even closer shortly after, sending a left-footed shot goalwards and drawing a diving save from goalkeeper Danny Twyman.

Ramsgate clawed their way back into the game, though, and went ahead in the eighth minute after good build-up play by Mitchell Sherwood and Joe Taylor.

When the ball was delivered into the box, Mark Lovell rose to flick it on and Paul Axon drilled home from close range to put the home side 1-0 up.

Still Whyteleafe pressed forward and they came close to an equaliser when Elijah Ogunseye and Billy Rutherford set up Alec Brown, but his header flashed past the post.

Brown went close again several minutes later, but Ramsgate scored the afternoon's second goal and that set the tone for the remainder of the game.

Sherwood, Axon and Lovell combined to good effect and it was Axon who applied the finishing touch to double his tally and give Ward's side some breathing space.

Axon could have completed a first-half hat-trick but his swerving shot was brilliantly saved by Rob O'Hara, who had to be at full-stretch to deny the midfielder.

After the break, the Rams continued to domi-

Ramsgate starting XI



Subs used: Gray (Winnett 51), Tsangarides (Axon 71), Schulz (Lovell 79)

nate and they grabbed a fourth goal in the 67th minute when James Gregory's corner was met by Lovell, who planted the ball beyond O'Hara.

Nine minutes later, the rout was complete when Ollie Gray's raking long ball was taken down by Joe Taylor, who turned his man and supplied a cool finish to make it 5-0.

Whyteleafe's frustration boiled over late on when Coleman retaliated to Liam Quinn's tackle by appearing to head-butt the Rams defender.

Ramsgate are back in action at Southwood this Saturday when Burgess Hill Town are the visitors in Ryman South. Log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk for details of last night's game, which saw the Rams travel to Kent rivals Chatham Town.

Blues progress in FA Cup after sizzling second half

FOOTBALL

BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Binfield 0

Margate 3

Welford 54, Kamara 60, Osborne 69



THREE second-half goals sealed Margate's FA Cup passage on Saturday as they side-stepped a potential banana-skin tie to defeat Hellenic League side Binfield.

The Blues rarely threatened in a dull opening period, but the difference in quality became apparent after the break as Iain O'Connell's side stroled into the second qualifying round.

Curtis Robinson's suspension meant there was a place in defence for Sam Groombridge, while Ishmail Kamara came in for Dean Grant, who had to settle for a place among the substitutes.

The Berkshire side were first to threaten and they were very close to an opening goal when Ryan Millward got his head to a free-kick and drew a superb save from Jamie Turner.

Margate's attempts on goal were limited to long-range shots from Wayne Wilson and



Pictures: IOR KIPPO

CLOSE: Wayne Wilson went close for Blues with several speculative efforts during the game at Binfield

Kamara and they almost handed Binfield a goal as the half drew to a close.

John Keister's sloppy throw-in was pounced on by Ian Davies, who ran through one-on-one with Turner before sending his shot sailing over the crossbar.

The Gate came out for the second-half determined to take control of the tie and they rattled the woodwork five minutes after the break when James Pinnock headed against the post.

The travelling fans were celebrating four minutes later, though, when Shaun Welford latched onto Kamara's neat through-ball and slipped a calm finish beyond Chris Adams.

Kamara and Wilson were beginning to

Margate starting XI



Subs used: Sherman (Pinnock 69), Waugh (Welford 74), Harrington (Lacy 78)

develop a strong understanding and between them, the pair gave Binfield all manner of problems as Margate continued to dominate.

When Kamara's shot was well-blocked, Wilson was first to the rebound, but his shot, too, was charged down. Wilson then collected a clever Kamara pass and fired goalwards, only to see Adams get his fingertips to the ball and turn the shot behind.

The second goal seemed to be getting closer and it arrived on the hour-mark with Wilson and Kamara combining once again. A poor Binfield pass out of defence fell to Wilson and he sent Kamara clear to shake off his man and slide the ball past Adams.

Binfield's threats were now restricted to set-pieces and Millward tested Turner with another header, but Margate had the last word when centre-back Tommy Osborne beat three men in the box before turning the ball home.

Margate return to league action on Saturday when Wealdstone are the visitors to Hartsdown Park in the Ryman Premier Division. Kick-off is at 3pm.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Sutton United	6	5	1	0	+8	16
2 Hendon	6	4	1	1	+5	13
3 Kingstonsian	6	4	1	1	+4	13
4 Lowestoft Town	6	4	0	2	+4	12
5 Bury Town	6	3	3	0	+3	12
6 Hastings United	6	3	2	1	+5	11
7 Billericay Town	6	3	1	2	+2	10
8 Harrow Borough	6	3	0	3	-2	9
9 Tooting & Mitcham United	5	3	0	2	-2	9
10 Canvey Island	6	2	2	2	+2	8
11 Concord Rangers	6	2	2	2	-2	8
12 Wealdstone	6	2	1	3	+2	7
13 Carshalton Athletic	5	2	1	2	+1	7
14 Croydon Athletic	4	2	1	1	+1	7
15 AFC Hornchurch	6	2	1	3	-4	7
16 Cray Wanderers	5	1	2	2	+2	5
17 Margate	5	1	2	2	0	5
18 Folkestone Invicta	6	1	2	3	-5	5
19 Tonbridge Angels	6	1	1	4	-4	4
20 Aveley	6	0	3	3	-5	3
21 Maidstone United	6	0	2	4	-6	2
22 Horsham	6	0	1	5	-9	1

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Leatherhead	6	4	1	1	+6	13
2 Metropolitan Police	4	4	0	0	+8	12
3 Burgess Hill Town	5	3	2	0	+5	11
4 Bognor Regis Town	5	3	1	1	+5	10
5 Godalming Town	4	3	1	0	+5	10
6 Sittingbourne	6	2	3	1	+2	9
7 Chatham Town	5	3	0	2	0	9
8 Eastbourne Town	4	2	2	0	+2	8
9 Chipstead	5	2	2	1	0	8
10 Whyteleafe	6	2	2	2	-5	8
11 Walton Casuals	5	2	1	2	0	7
12 Faversham Town	5	2	1	2	0	7
13 Mersham	6	1	3	2	-2	6
14 Fleet Town	5	2	0	3	-4	6
15 Whitehawk	4	1	2	1	0	5
16 Worthing	5	1	1	3	+1	4
17 Dulwich Hamlet	4	1	1	2	0	4
18 Walton & Hersham	4	1	1	2	0	4
19 Ramsgate	5	1	1	3	-2	4
20 Whitstable Town	5	1	0	4	-4	3
21 Corinthian-Casuals	5	0	1	4	-5	1
22 Horsham YMCA	5	0	0	5	-12	0

FIXTURES

(Saturday) RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Margate v Wealdstone
RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Ramsgate v Burgess Hill Town

O'Connell eyes cup run cash for improving Gate

FOOTBALL

MARGATE manager Iain O'Connell insists the FA Cup is high on his list of priorities this season after watching his side ease past Binfield in the last round.

The Blues boss admitted his team had everything to lose ahead of their trip to Berkshire, but praised his players' application in notching up a 3-0 win.

O'Connell was without Curtis Robinson, Darren Marsden and Craig Cloke for the tie, but all three could return for Saturday's Ryman Premier game against Wealdstone, with Cloke rated a 50-50 prospect with a niggling knee injury.

"It was a massive banana-skin for us," O'Connell said. "In the first-half, they packed everyone behind the ball and they worked very hard to stop us penetrating.

"We totally controlled the second-half and although they had a couple of chances, we were three up by that stage and the game was over.

"The first-half was a bit tentative and anyone would have found it hard to break them down. However, that's three for Shaun [Welford] now and I'm hoping he's going to go on a bit of a roll. I'm paying his goal bonuses, but I'll be happy if he keeps scoring.

"It's lovely to be in the FA Cup. I'd have been sick if we weren't in the draw on Monday because with all the excellent prize money, it's good for the club financially."

O'Connell's side go into Saturday on the back of two wins in league and cup and



Pictures: DAVID STEWART

CUP HOPES: Iain O'Connell says Gate could do with a lucrative run in the FA Cup this season

they have also kept back-to-back clean sheets following last Tuesday's 2-0 win over Aveley.

ATHLETICS



WINNERS: Anthony Jackson and Charlotte Collyer

Marathon efforts lead to big wins for runners

RUNNERS from across the county and beyond took to the road in Thanet last Sunday as the Kent Coastal Marathon and Half-Marathon both attracted strong fields.

The races also incorporated the Kent Marathon Championships and South East Vets Marathon Championships, with the competition played out in near-perfect running conditions.

Sittingbourne Striders' Anthony Jackson took first-place in the marathon, taking the senior men's title at the same time. He completed the course in 2.48.32, edging Raymond Pearce (Istead & Ifield) into second while Jason Cherriman (Orpington Roadrunners) had to settle for third.

Meanwhile, unattached runner Charlotte Collyer came home in fifth-place overall after winning the women's marathon in 3.04.03 to smash the course record which had stood for eight years. She finished well clear of second-placed Lisa Barry (100 Marathon Club) and Sarah Maguire (Canterbury Harriers), who came home in third.

In the half-marathon, Adrian Lowther took the top prize in the men's race, but he was pushed all the way by Mark Wilkins (Invicta East Kent) and Robert Carpenter (Ashford & District).

Sarah Mooney (Larkfield AC) was the best-placed woman in the race, finishing 14th overall, well clear of her nearest challengers – Heather Fitzmaurice (Sevenoaks AC) and Vicky Foad (Sutton Runners).

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K.O. 3pm



Tuesday 21st September
Whitstable Reserves v Chatham
K.O. 7.45pm

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